

“NEIGHBORHOODS THAT WORK”

Award Recipients, 2003

Ward 1 – Chuck Beaty

Neighborhood Improvement, Beautification, and Preservation

Friends of Evergreen Cemetery/Regreen Evergreen Initiative

The Regreen Evergreen Initiative began a little over a year ago after Justice John Gabbert and Councilman Chuck Beaty enlisted the help of Judge Victor Miceli to come on board and lead the charge to make serious and lasting change in the cemetery. Over 70 people attended the first meeting, and many have stayed on to help in the effort. The goal of Regreen Evergreen is to raise enough funds and in-kind donations to upgrade the cemetery with fencing, lights, benches, paths, and historic markers as well as raise endowment funds to sustain the cemetery. The committee is well on its way to reaching its goals.

Notable historic City figures such as John W. North, Eliza Tibbetts, and Frank Miller are interned at Evergreen as well as many veterans dating back to the Civil War. All Riversiders are indebted to the Friends of Evergreen for their hard work toward restoring Evergreen Cemetery to the beautiful place that we all envision it once was.

Neighborhood Safety:

Mission Inn Neighborhood Watch Group

In the early 1990s, the neighbors in the area of Mission Avenue between Cedar and Pine were experiencing problems with transients using the alleyway for access to backyards. Residents were suffering burglarized garages and thefts from yards. The neighbors came together, with Elaine and Bill Baggett at the lead, and met with the police to establish a Neighborhood Watch. They have had an active and effective crime watch ever since. The group meets a couple times a year, and the Baggetts hold a National Night Out event at their home each August. Residents have created strong ties and watch out for each other and their property. The group includes both property owners and renters, new arrivals and long-time residents. The Mission Inn Neighborhood Watch group has been an active force in making their neighborhood a safer place and establishing a sense of community and safety. Team work is what makes their neighborhood work!

Neighborliness and Caring:

Evergreen Quarter Historic District Advisory Committee

Spearheaded by resident Glen Baker, the Evergreen Quarter Historic District Advisory Committee is working with the Planning Department's Historic Resources Manager, Janet Hansen, to officially establish the neighborhood as an historic district. Members of the Advisory Committee all live in homes within the historic district and are passionate about maintaining the neighborhood's unique charm. The approximate boundaries of the district are 14th Street, Brockton Avenue, Redwood Avenue, and University Avenue. Once the committee has completed the historic district designation, Evergreen Quarter residents will continue on as a neighborhood association and work to maintain and preserve their wonderful neighborhood.

Ward 2 – Ameal Moore

Neighborhood Improvement, Beautification, and Preservation

Neighbors United for the Eastside

In October 2002, a group of residents formed the Neighbors United for the Eastside neighborhood organization with the vision “to work together to establish a more united neighborhood ‘block by block’ for the future of our children.” This group of residents participated in projects with the City of Riverside and other agencies to stop youth violence in the neighborhood and united a cross-section of residents to celebrate diversity. Their first

Annual “Increase the Love” Neighborhood Festival was held at Lincoln Park this past summer. Several churches participated: Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine, St. Francis de Sales, Victory Outreach Riverside, and Second Baptist Church. Approximately 350 neighbors attended to enjoy friends and family and brought a spirit of peace and unity to the community. The group is already planning for next year’s “Increase the Love” Neighborhood Festival.

Neighborhood Safety

Victory Outreach Riverside

After the murder of a 13-year boy in the Eastside neighborhood, Victory Outreach Riverside joined together with other faith-based organizations in November 2002 for a 20-day community walk for the purpose of spreading the message of love in the neighborhood. The 20 days ended with a performance held in the neighborhood which provided a dramatization of gang life and a spiritual message. Because of these efforts in connecting with the neighbors throughout the Eastside, there was a period of peace experienced throughout the Eastside and the City of Riverside. In addition, the members of Victory Outreach adopted 9th Street and 12th Street in the Eastside where they help needy families. In August 2003, they coordinated a clean-up campaign at which over 100 members walked and picked up trash and debris along the two adopted streets. This faith-based organization continues to make strides in building relationships with residents in inner-city neighborhoods and helping to improve the quality of life there.

Neighborliness and Caring

Path of Life Ministries

In August 2002, Path of Life Ministries organized their first “Back to School Rally” at Patterson Park. Over 1,000 residents attended from all over the Eastside neighborhood to have fun and get ready for school. Free school supplies were given out to children, and neighbors spent time together. Again in August 2003 Path of Life members, relatives, friends, and volunteers poured out their hearts at their second “Back to School Rally” and reached over 1,500 people residing on the streets surrounding Patterson Park. In addition to the school supplies, the event provided free hot dog meals, food bags, face painting, kids’ haircuts, dental check-ups, physical exams, recreation activities, and great music. This summer, in addition to preparing for their annual event, a group of young people partnered with the Riverside Park and Recreation Department to provide a Super Kids program at Patterson Park where they planned and implemented fun activities for over 100 kids on Friday afternoons. This program allowed an opportunity for children and parents to play at the park and connect with other kids from the neighborhood.

Ward 3 – Joy Defenbaugh

Neighborhood Improvement, Beautification, and Preservation

McKinley Street Neighbors

Last spring, the McKinley Street Neighbors took on a beautification project with help from a Neighborhood Matching Grant, Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful, and the Public Works Department. Residents got together and planned and installed new landscaping and a fence at the end of their street where dead and dying oleanders once covered a chainlink fence. The bare chainlink fence that was left behind after the oleanders were removed left an appealing shortcut over the fence and across the canal behind it for local kids. Concerned about safety issues and aesthetics, the neighborhood decided to do something about it. With Anita Blount (40-plus year resident) and Susan Doss leading the way, the beautification project enlisted the help of 60% of the residents. The project was completed last spring. Curbs and gutters are slated to be installed by the City in February and then final plantings will be done by the neighborhood to complete the project. McKinley Street proves that with tenacity and sweat equity, neighbors can make good things happen, have fun, and build community all at the same time!

Neighborhood Safety

Verbena Drive Neighborhood Watch

The Verbena Drive Neighborhood Watch group was established in the 1990s to fight crime, particularly a “meth house” located in the neighborhood. With the help of the police department, the neighborhood came together and took advantage of the Safe Streets Now! program to combat gangs and drugs. Since then, the neighborhood holds monthly meetings and holds a yearly National Night Out event and Ice Cream social. The Verbena Drive neighbors shows just what can be accomplished when neighbors establish an strong Neighborhood Watch program by partnering with the police department and by being the eyes and ears of the neighborhood. Congratulations on all of your hard work!

Neighborliness and Caring

Pachappa Hill Neighborhood Watch

This winding, hilltop street is home to a very cohesive and active Neighborhood Watch group. Not only do they participate in crime watch, but they are one of the primary Magnolia Center sounding blocks for neighborhood concerns at city hall. In particular, residents Curtis Brown and Joanie Thomas are the glue that hold this group together. They keep abreast of issues of concern such as the Riverside Plaza renovation and issues with train crossings. Each year the neighborhood hosts wonderful National Night Out event and Fourth of July celebrations. Residents have developed strong friendships, stay in regular contact, and watch over each other. Pachappa Hill Neighborhood Watch exemplifies what the Neighborliness and Caring award is all about.

Ward 4 – Frank Schiavone

Neighborhood Improvement, Beautification, and Preservation

Casa Blanca Youth Soccer Club

Soccer Coach Villafan is both a resident and owner of a small business in the Casa Blanca community. After many years of communicating with children, youth, and parents from the community, he discovered that there was a great need for more affordable sports programs for youth. On January 8, 2000, in collaboration with other community members, the Casa Blanca Youth Soccer Club was established. The club started with 60 players, and over a three-year period it has grown to over 600 kids that come from Casa Blanca and other neighborhoods in the City. This club offers a low-cost and affordable year-round soccer program for low-income families who normally cannot afford to participate in other school or private athletic programs. The vision of this club is to encourage the children and youth to participate in positive activities such as soccer, to teach self-discipline and good character, to instill in them to do well in school, and to look beyond their current circumstances so that they can shape their future. This soccer club has proactively broken the barriers of territory from neighborhood to neighborhood and established trusting relationships within the community to embrace programs that will decrease youth violence. It is the dedication of volunteers that give countless hours to support and encourage the youth of Riverside that make this program a success. The club enjoys a strong partnership with Riverside Park and Recreation Department and the Casa Blanca Community Action Group.

Neighborhood Safety

Evans Street Neighbors

The Evans Street Neighbors came together to make their street safer for kids, families, and pets. Evans is a highly traveled street, particularly by commercial vehicles which pass by on their way to work. Public Works approved the street for speed humps, and neighborhood leader Louise Gutierrez enlisted the assistance of the Office of Neighborhoods and Development Department to help pay for them. After a lengthy process, the neighborhood was awarded Community Development Block Grant funding and a Neighborhood Matching Grant to pay for the humps. This neighborhood exemplifies how residents can partner with their local government to find solutions to safety issues and creative ways to make them happen.

Neighborliness and Caring

Berkshire Hills Neighborhood Association

The Berkshire Hills Neighborhood is bounded by Victoria Avenue, Madison Street, Washington Street, and Dufferin Avenue in the Arlington Heights Neighborhood. The group came together after its leader, Carla Marie Tanaguchi, and her late husband attended the Riverside Neighborhood Conference 2002 and were inspired to

make a difference in their neighborhood. They quickly organized the residents and applied for a Neighborhood Matching Grant which helped fund a neighborhood get-together and “Sign Raising” party. The neighborhood purchased three additional Neighborhood Watch signs as well as five signs reading “Welcome to the Berkshire Hills Neighborhood Association.” The neighborhood association now has a reactivated Neighborhood Watch program and participated in National Night Out. Through the efforts of the members, Berkshire Hills has become an even more neighborly and caring neighborhood.

Ward 5 – Ed Adkison

Neighborhood Improvement, Beautification, and Preservation

Arlington Partnership

The Arlington Partnership is an organization of business owners in the Arlington area within the new Arlington Business Improvement District. Partners Ron Rose and Judy Teunissen spearheaded the partnership’s first Annual Chili Cookoff and Car Show this summer, and the event promises to be a wonderful yearly event that will grow and grow and really put the Arlington Neighborhood on the map! The partnership’s activities include a physical improvement program for businesses to spruce up their storefronts and participation in the Shop Riverside program. Thank you to Arlington Partnership and its President, Allison Dell, for building community and improving, beautifying, and preserving the Arlington neighborhood.

Neighborhood Safety

Racine Street Neighborhood Watch

The Racine Street Neighborhood Watch group was started by resident Cindy North to bring residents together to tackle traffic safety issues on their street and to educate themselves about Meghan’s Law. They are working on a speed hump project and continue to move toward establishing a strong neighborhood through community socials. Since Cindy’s initial efforts to establish the Neighborhood Watch, resident communication has improved. This past August they held an Ice Cream Social on National Night Out and plan on continuing their efforts at getting residents involved in the neighborhood.

Neighborliness and Caring

Flower Power For Kids – Autumn Ridge Apartments

The recently renovated Autumn Ridge Apartments is also home to “Flower Power for Kids,” a youth neighborhood organization whose focus is community building through neighborhood beautification. Apartment Manager Miranda Hundley and resident Mona Owen assisted the kids in organizing the 20-plus children of all ages that reside there. Their first project will be a flower garden planting project in front of the complex with the help of a Neighborhood Matching Grant and Riverside Housing Development Corporation funds. The kids have also adopted a stretch of Indiana Avenue through Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful. Flower Power for Kids hopes to influence the neighborhood across Indiana Avenue in joining their crusade. If every neighborhood had a Flower Power for Kids, think of what a beautiful city we would have! Thank you to Flower Power for Kids and Miranda and Mona.

Ward 6 – Nancy Hart

Neighborhood Improvement, Beautification, and Preservation

Arlanza Area Clergy Team

The Arlanza Area Clergy Team (AACT) was established this past year with the help of Office of Neighborhoods and The Arlanza Neighborhood Initiative. The AACT hit the ground running with the Challen Hill Park Site Cleanup and Barbecue on October 4, 2003. This coalition of local clergy is planning a neighborhood march to celebrate the opening of the Arlanza Family and Neighborhood Resource Center and is an active partner in the November 22, 2003, annual Arlanza Thanksgiving Dinner at Bryant Park. AACT is at the heart of what is happening in the neighborhood, and with the upbeat and untiring leadership of Reverend Everette E. Jones, Pastor

Annetti Bullock, and Pastor Deborah Bush, it promises to be an increasingly valuable asset to the whole community.

Neighborhood Safety

Mumford Neighborhood Watch

With the assistance of Riverside Police Department's Antionette Alexander, the Mumford Neighborhood Watch has become a force to be reckoned with! Residents banded together earlier this year to get a dangerous sex offender out of their neighborhood. With resident Kristin Garcia leading them, the neighbors held a big block party to get to know each other, and neighborhood ties have been strengthened. They have also started a neighborhood newsletter to keep the whole neighborhood informed. Congratulations to the Mumford neighbors for all of their hard work at making their neighborhood safe for kids!

Neighborliness and Caring

Padres Unidos

Established in 1973, Padres Unidos of Norte Vista High School has been an active community organization not only at Norte Vista High School but in the Arlanza Neighborhood at large. Padres Unidos is a Latino parents' group at the school. Their mission is to provide college scholarships to Latino students at Norte Vista and to foster more engagement of Latino parents in the educational process of their children. But their community involvement doesn't end there. They have been a collaborator in organizing many community events such as the yearly National Night Out event at Myra Linn Park and the annual Thanksgiving Dinner at Bryant Park. In particular, members Antonio and Elia Camarena can be found participating in every community event in Arlanza and always are there where help is needed. Thank you for all your hard work in your community!

Ward 7 – Laura Pearson

Neighborhood Improvement, Beautification, and Preservation

The Meadows Mobile Home Park

Located at 4000 Pierce Street, this senior mobile home park community truly exemplifies what it means to be a Neighborhood That Works! Residents have organized an earthquake committee and hold monthly potluck lunches and breakfasts at the park. A memorial committee assists neighbors that lose loved ones by hosting memorial gatherings. Residents participate in a twice-a-month pick-up of newspapers, plastic, and cans for recycling to raise funds for their recreation fund. They watch out for each other and help each other in times of need. Four residents recently participated in Riverside Police Department's Citizens' Academy and were inspired to make a difference in their neighborhood's safety. Four block captains regularly meet and train residents how to be the eyes and ears of their community. Resident Linda Hernandez heads up the Neighborhood Watch effort. Managers Barbara and Myron Beckner have been very supportive and a real asset to the park.

Neighborhood Safety

Hedrick and Gramercy Neighborhood Watch

This group came together last winter after a killing took place in the street outside of a home that was hosting a party. Although the group has had a slow start, Block Captain Dorothy Halderson forges ahead to build stronger neighborhood ties through the Neighborhood Watch program as well as set goals for other projects that will help calm traffic.

Neighborliness and Caring

Tiburon Neighborhood Organization

Resident Mary Jane Dana and eighteen families in the Tiburon Neighborhood spent the summer organizing a wonderful Tiburon Community Harvest Festival for their La Sierra River Walk neighborhood. The event took place on October 25, 2003, from 2:00 to 6:00 and included food, organized games, a prize drawing, canned food drive, pumpkin carving contest, and neighborhood bingo. Residents could register to vote, get city maps from representatives of the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce, and meet their City Council candidates. Many local merchants donated gifts, prizes and food for the event.

The mission of the neighborhood organization is to unite the neighborhood in giving back to the community, keeping the community safe and prepared in the event of an emergency, and to create a shared vision and unified voice at City Hall.

Already the neighborhood is planning its next project: The Tiburon Christman/Holiday Progressive Dinner Party.